(c) A National Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to guide, steer and direct the programmes. For facilitating expeditious approvals and clearances and ensuring timely implementation of commemorative programmes, etc. a Cabinet Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister. An Implementation Committee, headed by the Minister for Human Resource Development has also been constituted to envision and evolve programmes for commemoration and to over-see implementation. A Secretariat headed by an Additional Secretary, with a total strength of 88 posts, has been created to service the three Committees and for organising and co-ordinating the various programmes and activities of the 50th Anniversary.

The programmes for celebration have been broadly classified into the following three categories:—

(i) Ceremonial programmes;

(ii) Core Programmes;

(iii) Cultural & Intellectual interactions/projections.

The focus of the year-long celebrations would be on rekindling the spirit and values of the freedom struggle. Efforts are being made to ensure participation of the masses in these programmes in a meaningful manner. Programmes and events are being visualised keeping all sections of society in mind and with the awareness that the cultural diversity, and holistic continuity of India is one of its major strengths.

The programmes being organised in August' 97 are as follows:—

1. Curtain raiser event on 9th August, 1997 at "August Kranti Maidan" in Mumbai.
2. March of the Nation on 14th Aug '97 at Rajpath, New Delhi.
3. The commemorative function of the golden jubilee of India's independence in the Central Hall of Parliament at midnight on 14 August, 1997.
4. Independence day events: 15th of August, 1997 will be organised throughout the country in a befitting manner.

Ministries/Deptts. under the Govt. of India, State Governments and Union Territories, as well as Indian Missions abroad, will organise their own programmes during the year.

A National Calendar of events incorporating the activities and programmes for the year-long celebrations is under preparations.

Projects for Clearance

695. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government gave a detailed report to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh about the number of major projects cleared, returned to the State Government and kept pending for clearance;

(b) if so, the number of projects cleared, returned to the State Government and kept pending for clearance;

(c) whether the projects returned to the State Government for modification etc. have been received back by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) if so, whether the Vamsadhara Stage-II Project could not be approved as Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been able to sort out inter-state issues with the Government of Orissa;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the State Government to return all the pending projects referred to them by the Union Government for modification etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the 19 Major Projects, 6 projects have already been found acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee subject to certain observations. 11 projects have been returned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for submitting modified project reports and 2 projects are under correspondence with the State Government.

(c) and (d) Modified report in respect of one project has been received. It is upon the State Government to submit modified reports on the basis of the comments of the Central Water Commission.

(e) and (f) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been able to sort out Inter-State issues with the Government of Orissa in respect of Vamsadhara Stage-II project.

(g) It is for the State Government to submit modified report after complying with the observations of the Central

Water Commission. The Central Government is willing to render any technical assistance required in the matter.

Modernisation of Air Safety Network

696. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to modernise and update Air Safety Network in the country;

(b) the present status of the projects undertaken in this regard;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of some projects and action taken against those responsible for faulty execution delay-resulting in consequent cost escalation; and

(d) the details of plan of action for ongoing and new projects particularly in Maharashtra and funds provided therefor during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) In addition to the modernisation of Air Traffic Service System at Delhi and Mumbai, navigation and surveillance systems are being upgraded by installation of Secondary surveillance Radars at Madras, Calcutta, Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Nagpur, Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar. Out of the above, the radars at Guwahati, Trivandrum and Hyderabad have been installed and those at Chennai, Calcutta and Ahmedabad are under installation.

(b) So far as the modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports are concerned, the system site acceptance test at Delhi airport has been completed and operational trials are going on. The system at Mumbai is likely to be ready for operational trials by October, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the delay in the completion of the project are as under:

(i) Abnormal rainfall during 1993 and 1994 which affected the civil construction work;

(ii) Change in the scope of the work;

(iii) Delay in replacement of components which became unserviceable during installation;

(iv) Modifications had to be carried out by the contractor to meet the specifications;

(v) Procedural delays in obtaining Customs Duty and Import Licence clearances.

(d) As mentioned above, the modernised Air Traffic Service System at Mumbai would become operational by October, 1997 and the total cost of the project for Mumbai airport is Rs. 212 crores.

Erosion in Padma River

697. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Padma River flowing into Bangladesh and which partly spills over into the Murshidabad district of West Bengal is causing alarm in the State;

(b) whether the riverbed erosion currently seen in the river can move on the lead to similar calamitous trands in the Ganga, particularly when there is hardly a district of 2 km. between the Padma and the Ganga; and

(c) if so, the technical assistance or any other assistance proposed to be rendered to the West Bengal Government by the Union Government to check the unabated erosion in the Padma river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. During high flood, river Padma/Ganga flowing into Bangladesh partly spills over in the Murshidabad district and causes damage.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission recently constituted an Expert Committee to study erosion problems of the river Ganga/Padma in West Bengal for taking up suitable measures. The Committee has submitted its report along with recommendations. The Committee has also dealt with this problem of erosion on the river Ganga/Padma near Fazilpur, where the distance between the rivers Padma and Bhagirathi is the least and has suggested suitable measures for checking the erosion in the Padma river.

[Translation]

Birth Centenary of Morarji Desai

698. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes were declared by the Union Government on the birth centenary of Shri Morarji Desai;

(b) if so, whether any declaration was made to open a Naturopathy and Yoga College in Delhi and if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and